

Senate Daily Summary

Thursday, 15 October 2015

The Senate met from 9.30 am until 6.50 pm

Legislation

[Bills and related documents](#)

Bills assented to

[Assent to laws](#) were reported in the Senate

Bills considered

The following bills were debated

- Commonwealth Grants Commission Amendment (GST Distribution) Bill 2015–second reading debate commenced [[first speaker](#)]
- Racial Discrimination Amendment Bill 2014–second reading debate continued [[first speaker](#)]

The following bills were debated and passed without amendments

- Amending Acts 1980 to 1989 Repeal Bill 2015 and Statute Law Revision Bill (No. 2) 2015 [second reading – [first speaker](#)] [the bills will now be assented to]
- Australian Immunisation Register Bill 2015 and the Australian Immunisation Register (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2015 [second reading – [first speaker](#)] [the bills will now be assented to]
- Customs Depot Licensing Charges Amendment Bill 2015, Customs Amendment (Fees and Charges) Bill 2015 and Import Processing Charges Amendment Bill 2015 [second reading – [first speaker](#)] [the bills will now be assented to]
- Social Services Legislation Amendment (Cost of Living Concession) Bill 2015 [second reading – [first speaker](#)] [the bill will now be assented to]
- [Social Services Legislation Amendment \(Low Income Supplement\) Bill 2015](#) [second reading – [first speaker](#)] [the bill will now be assented to]
- Tax and Superannuation Laws Amendment (Better Targeting the Income Tax Transparency Laws) Bill 2015 [second reading – [first speaker](#)] [the bill will now be assented to] [statements were made – [first speaker](#)]

[Bill discharged from Senate Notice Paper](#)

Migration Amendment (Regaining Control Over Australia’s Protection Obligations) Bill 2013



Bills introduced

- Crimes Legislation Amendment (Harming Australians) Bill 2015 [[Minister's second reading speech](#)] [[a statement](#) was made]
- Education Legislation Amendment (Overseas Debt Recovery) Bill 2015 and Student Loans (Overseas Debtors Repayment Levy) Bill 2015 [passed by the House of Representatives 15 October 2015] [[Minister's second reading speech](#)]
- Food Standards Australia New Zealand Amendment (Forum on Food Regulation and Other Measures) Bill 2015 [passed by the House of Representatives 14 October 2015] [[Minister's second reading speech](#)]
- Health Legislation Amendment (eHealth) Bill 2015 [passed by the House of Representatives 15 October 2015] [[Minister's second reading speech](#)]
- Shipping Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 [passed by the House of Representatives 14 October 2015] [[Minister's second reading speech](#)]

Notice of motion to introduce a bill

Migration Amendment (Free the Children) Bill 2015—notice given by Senator Hanson-Young

Committees

Scheduled [public committee hearings](#)
[Committee reports](#)

Estimates

[Additional information](#) received relating to estimates hearings was tabled

Reports tabled

- Education and Employment References Committee—Getting our money's worth: the operation, regulation and funding of private vocational education and training (VET) providers in Australia [[report](#)] [a motion to take note of the report was debated – [first speaker](#)]
- Publications Committee—[18th report](#)
- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee—Voice for Animals (Independent Office of Animal Welfare) Bill 2015 [[report](#)]
- Trade and Investment Growth Joint Select Committee—Business utilisation of Australia's free trade agreements [report] [a [motion](#) to take note of the report was debated]

Membership

The Senate [agreed](#) to vary the membership of committees

New inquiries

Selection of Bills Committee

The Senate adopted [report no. 13 of 2015](#) of the Selection of Bills Committee and made the following references:

- Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment (Streamlining Regulation) Bill 2015 and a related bill—Education and Employment Legislation Committee—to report by 30 November 2015
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Prohibition of Live Imports of Primates for Research) Bill 2015—Environment and Communications Legislation Committee—to report by 1 March 2016
- Fair Work Amendment (Gender Pay Gap) Bill 2015—Education and Employment Legislation Committee—to report by 12 May 2016
- Food Standards Australia New Zealand Amendment (Forum on Food Regulation and Other Measures) Bill 2015—Community Affairs Legislation Committee—to report by 30 November 2015
- Health Legislation Amendment (eHealth) Bill 2015—Community Affairs Legislation Committee—to report by 9 November 2015
- Migration Amendment (Complementary Protection and Other Measures) Bill 2015—Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee—to report by 18 February 2016
- Social Services Legislation Amendment (Youth Employment) Bill 2015—Community Affairs Legislation Committee—to report by 30 November 2015

Other reference

[Political donations](#)—Electoral Matters Joint Committee—to report by the last sitting day in March 2016

[Notice of motion to refer a matter to a committee](#)

Operation of portable long service schemes—Education and Employment References Committee—to report by the third sitting day in February 2016—notice given by Senators Rice and Lines

Documents

Delegated legislation

See [Disallowance Alert](#) for a complete list of notices of motion to disallow (and outcomes)

[Clerk's documents](#) were tabled [legislative instruments and other documents required by statute to be tabled]

Orders for the production of documents

Documents tabled

- The Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister (Senator McGrath) tabled a [document](#) relating to the Nous Group contract [The document was tabled in response to the order of the Senate agreed to earlier today – see below]
- The Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister (Senator McGrath) tabled [documents](#) relating to the Disability Support Program [The documents were tabled in response to the order of the Senate agreed to earlier today – see below]

Motions agreed to

- The Senate [ordered](#) the Minister for Education and Training (Senator Birmingham) to table documents relating to the Nous Group contract – no later than 3.30 pm on 15 October 2015 [statements were made – [first speaker](#)]
- The Senate [ordered](#) the Minister for Education and Training (Senator Birmingham) to table documents relating to the review of the Disability Support Program—no later than 4.30 pm on 15 October 2015 [a [statement](#) was made]
- The Senate [ordered](#) the Minister representing the Minister for Health (Senator Nash) to table documents relating to the food standards code—by no later than 22 October 2015

Orders with continuing effect

Departmental and agency appointments and vacancies

A [letter of advice](#) was tabled [Lists of appointments made and existing vacancies are required to be tabled 7 days before the commencement of budget, supplementary budget and additional estimates hearings]

Departmental and agency grants

A [letter of advice](#) was tabled [Lists of all grants approved are required to be tabled 7 days before the commencement of budget, supplementary budget and additional estimates hearings]

Departmental and agency unanswered questions on notice—Estimates hearings

A [statement](#) was tabled [Letters of advice in relation to questions taken on notice are required to be tabled by not later than 10 days before the commencement of the budget estimates, supplementary budget estimates and additional estimates hearings]

Documents tabled

- Department of Parliamentary Services—Report for 2014-15
- Report of the official visit by the President of the Senate to Canada and the United States of America, 30 May to 6 June 2015

Documents discussed

Committee reports were [discussed](#)

Other business

Questions without notice and issues arising during question time – [first question](#)
Adjournment debate – [first speaker](#)

Motions agreed to

- Environment—Queensland—[ReefBlitz initiative](#)—moved by Senator Lazarus [a [statement](#) was made]
- Foreign affairs—[Funding for nutrition](#)—moved by Senator McEwen
- Historical events—[West Gate Bridge collapse—45th anniversary](#)—moved by Senators Carr and Marshall

Motion debated

Transport–[Infrastructure spending](#)–moved by Senator Brown, at the request of Senator Moore [[first speaker](#)]

Motions negatived

- Environment–[Coal seam gas mining](#)–moved by Senator Lazarus [a [statement](#) was made]
- Environment–South Australia–[Exploratory drilling in the Great Australian Bight](#)–moved by Senators Simms and Xenophon
- Transport–New South Wales–[WestConnex Motorway project](#)–moved by Senator Rhiannon [statements were made – [first speaker](#)]

Questions on notice–Failure to provide answers

Senator Xenophon asked the Acting Minister for Defence (Senator Brandis) for an explanation of answers not being provided to [questions placed on notice](#) relating to defence procurement processes. Senator Brandis provided an explanation. A [motion](#) moved by Senator Xenophon to take note of the explanation was debated and agreed to

Notices of motion

[Further notices of motion](#) given today is available in the Senate Journals

Statistics

Statistics on the work of the Senate this week will be available in the Statistical Summary, which forms part of [StatsNet](#)–the Department of the Senate’s online statistical collection

Online

The *Senate Daily Summary* is available at www.aph.gov.au/senate

It is issued by the Senate Table Office as a convenient summary of each day’s proceedings in Senate. For a complete account see the official record, the [Journals of the Senate](#).

Follow the Australian Senate on Twitter: [@AuSenate](https://twitter.com/AuSenate)

Related resources

The *Order of Business* (or ‘Senate Red’) and the *Dynamic Red* (which updates the *Order of Business* throughout the sitting day) are also available at www.aph.gov.au/senate

Contact details

Inquiries, comments and suggestions

Phone: 6277 3021 | Email: sds@aph.gov.au